



**Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party
Wednesday 09 May 2019
at Billingshurst Centre at 6.30pm**

Present: Cllr J Perks (Chairman), Cllr Mrs S Duck, Cllr A Grant, Cllr Miss S Rogers, Mrs A Jupp, Mr N Jupp and Ms T Cranmer.

In Attendance

Mr G Burt - Clerk to the Council
Mrs S Meyer - Admin Assistant
Dr Chris Lyons - wyg
Mr B Watts – Melbrook Land
3 members of the public.

001/19 Election of Chairman

On the proposal of Cllr A Grant, seconded by Ms T Cranmer, **RESOLVED** Cllr J Perks be elected Chairman.

002/19 Election of Vice-Chairman

On the proposal of Cllr J Perks, seconded by Cllr Miss S Rogers, **RESOLVED** Mr B Spicer be elected Vice-Chairman.

003/19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr B Spicer (prior commitment).

004/19 Declarations of Interest and notification of change to members' interests

None.

005/19 Minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party held on 12 December 2018, previously circulated. To confirm and sign the minutes as a correct record

Cllr J Perks asked for the following to be added to the minutes, Minute 117/18:

(b) A Local media company would be approached to see if it could assist with the layout of the plan so as to present a more attractive "product".

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the 12 December 2018 be accepted with the above amendment, and duly signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

006/19 Matters arising, for information only, not separate agenda items

None.

007/19 To receive a presentation on proposals for land to the West of Billingshurst, Dr Chris Lyons, Director – Planning, wyg

Dr Lyons, along with Mr B Watts, gave a presentation of the planned proposal for land West and North West of Billingshurst to include 1,000 new houses, new primary school, community centre and a country park.

Brochures on the development left by Dr Lyons will be available to view at the Parish Office.

Cllr J Perks thanked Dr Lyons for his presentation and reminded him that this is a Neighbourhood Plan Working Party and although it can comment, no weight would be attached.

Mrs A Jupp said that although land is allocated for a primary school, the actual building of a school would only happen if an Academy or Free School were willing to operate it - LEAs are proscribed from opening new schools. Land set aside is not enough and is no guarantee. She was also concerned that the area of land set aside was right next to the refuse/recycling centre, which would be totally the wrong place given current concerns about air quality around schools, asthma, etc.

Mr G Burt said that the idea of a Country Park is great, but why not provide a continuation of Jubilee Fields? It would be a far more attractive proposition if the sports needs of the community were met; for example, extra football pitches. He also had concerns of the landowner managing the Country Park and retaining ownership in the years ahead. Mr Watts replied that the landowner was indeed very enthusiastic about keeping the Country Park under his control and indicated that in circumstances such as death of the owner, there would be an appropriate legal agreement to retain the Park for the community's use. Mr N Jupp suggested that the landowner would be paid around £50 million for the land so should be able to upkeep the Country Park with the interest alone.

Cllr Miss S Rogers felt that there is generally, throughout the area, a lack of retirement properties, so felt these should be included in the proposal. She also felt this proposal would rip the heart out of the countryside.

A member of the public said that the siting of the primary school was wrong - already in Billingshurst 97% of parents drive to the existing primary school, so parking near to the school is essential. She also thought that relocating the leisure centre to Jubilee Fields would be a great idea, which could help free up parking around the Weald School.

Another member of the public said that in regard to a school being built, this just would not happen as no council has money for the build, so this land would then revert to housing, which had happened on various other sites in Billingshurst. There was also no need for more 4-bedroom houses (Mr Lyons had said there was a real need for these in his presentation); the current development East of Billingshurst had recently submitted amended planning applications to alter consented 4-bedroom properties to 2-3 bedroom as there is no demand for 4-bedroom houses.

The presentation documents are available for all Councillors and Working Party Members to view in the Parish Office. It was agreed a note would be sent to Dr Lyons thanking him for the presentation and that the Working Party would wait for further information on the site in due course.

008/19 Public Session

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

009/19 To consider feedback from HDC following screening of draft NP – previously circulated

Cllr J Perks gave a short summary of where the Neighbourhood Plan is at now for new members.

Members discussed whether the Working Party needed to review its previous decision not to allocate sites in the light of HDC's feedback and other post HDC NP Seminar communications.

It was agreed to defer making a response (and about minute 011/19) until Members had discussed with Navigus, at the next meeting, the implications of such a possible turn-around.

In the meantime, the Working Party agreed there was nothing in HDC's other comments that was unacceptable, so all the other tweaks, etc. can be enacted by Navigus. A revised draft would be welcome prior to the next Working Party meeting.

Cllr J Perks proposed that the Working Party give thought to the NP Vision Statement, which HDC had suggested was too long, and come up with any suggestions in readiness for the next meeting on 12 June. It was agreed Members would put any comments in writing to the Clerk no less than 1 week before the next meeting; this would enable him to put all comments into one document and circulate for discussion at the meeting.

010/19 To note the 2018 SHELAA Housing Report – previously circulated

Cllr A Grant noted that the number of sites mentioned in the document had gone up enormously since April 2017. Mr N Jupp said that this may be due to Horsham District Council reviewing its HDPF.

It was agreed that this needed to be shared to the wider community; Cllr J Perks will write something for the July edition of the TWEET magazine.

011/19 To consider any matters arising from NP seminar, attended by Mr B Spicer and Mr N Jupp plus Clerk – slides previously circulated

As agreed in Minute 009/19, item will be looked into further and will be discussed at the next NP meeting.

012/19 Any other matters for information only

Mr N Jupp asked for information on how the budget for the NP was doing; the Clerk will update at the next meeting.

Cllr J Perks requested that a scan of a Neighbourhood Planning document from the LCR magazine be sent to all Working Party members - Clerk to circulate.

Mr N Jupp said that all should be aware that West Sussex County Council parking standards was in the process of changing.

013/19 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 12 June at 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.

Chairman

Date: